WEST BRIDGEWATER

NEWS LETTER

July 1, 1945 Number 9

HELLO THERE:

Special greetings from the faculty and students of Howard High!

By the time this copy of the News Letter goes to Press, another commencement will have come and gone. As we have made preparations for the great and final event of the school year, our thoughts have reverted to the many graduates of other years who are now in the service of our country. How proud we are of each and every one of them and their achievements since they have left Howard High! They have been a credit to their Alma Mater.

It is our prayer that this horrible conflict will soon end and that you fellows and girls will be home to witness our next commencement.

"WHAT'S THE SCORE"

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SPORTS

TRACK

On Saturday, June 2nd, the Howard High track team competed in a district meet at Rockland. The schools entered in Class A were Rockland, Walpole, Barnstable, Oliver Ames of North Easton, and Plymouth. Competing in Class B were Hanover, Howard, Marshfield, and Mansfield. Rockland walked away with Class A honors scoring 56 points while the rest were evenly divided. Hanover took a firm grip on Class B honors with 51½ points to their credit while Howard with no previous meets to their credit captured 32 points to take second place.

Macfagden of Hanover was a three even 8 winner taking firsts in the running broad jump, the shot putt, and the high jump.

Howard came up with two double event winners with Leon Beaulieu winning the 100 yard and 220 year dashes and Dick Goldie winning the ½ mile and mile runs. Beaulieu added another 3 points by taking 2nd in the broad jump.

There were nine events in all. Five running events, a relay, and three field matches.

Howard got their points by Beaulieu taking 1st in the 100 yard dash and 220 with 10 points. Don Holbrook 2nd and Tommy Miles 4th in the 440 with 4 points. Goldie first in the 880 and mile with 10 points. Holbrook 3rd with 2 points in the high jump. Beaulieu 2nd in the broad jump with 3 points and no points in the shot putt. A relay team was also entered which finished 2nd for 3 more points. Those on the relay team were Miles, Holmes, Marzolli and Holbrook.

BASEBALL

One! Two! Three strikes--You're out! The Baseball Team has had a successful year as far as sportsmanship goes, but otherwise, not above average. So far, of a total of seven games played, two were won. East Bridgewater was defeated 18-0, and Perkins pitched a no-hit game to Norton. Gaskill has pitched several games this year, and regular catcher Miles was on the mound for a couple innings with Caswell behind the plate. There are six freshmen on the team, and surprisingly enough, they are quite good players. Tom Ely is manager. Coach Ward has had a number of obstacles to overcome, but he has turned out a good, clean-playing team.

Baseball fans hereabouts are agog over the recent fine showing of the Boston Red Sox. After losing the first eight games of the season they suddenly started to click, and sparked by the performance of pitcher David "Boo" Ferris, who has won eight straight games, they are now in 4th place and going strong.

TENNIS

The tennis court at Howard High is the busiest place in town right now. It seems everyone from nine to ninety has taken to tennis like ducks to water. It is not unusual for people to wait an hour for about ten minutes of tennis.

BASKETBALL

Howard High recently held an assembly program in honor of the students who participated in the year's sports. Significant this year was the fact that students received sweaters along with their letters. This system, inaugurated last year, is sponsored by the student council, and it is a great impetus toward participation in sports.

As commencement rolls around this year, honor students of the senior class are again preparing for Class Day. This year, the program is taking the form of a trial in which each senior's record, (the different class parts,) is brought before the court as a witness of his integrity. Of course, all twenty-six students win the case, and consequently they receive diplomas. The Class Day program ends with the singing of the Class Ode to the tune of "There Are Such Things."

Our superintendant of schools, Mr. Charles G. Taylor, has accepted a position in Barre, Vermont. The teachers of the town entertained him at a supper prepared by the ladies of the Cochesett church, and presented him with a gift. We shall be very sorry to see him go.

At the P.T.A. meeting it was voted to hold a Field Day and clambake sometime in the fall. It is hoped that all the West Bridgewater residents will come and share the food (if we can get it) and the fun (guaranteed).

We mentioned before that Mr. J. Roy Newton, former English instructor at Howard, is living in town again. Mrs. Newton will be on the teaching staff of the Center School next year.

The "Boston Post" done us wrong this year. First it printed pictures of our senior class officers under the caption of "East Bridgewater Pupils" Then later there appeared the picture of four of our young ladies (presumably from Howard Seminary but at any rate from anywhere but W.B.) as the HHS senior offices.

Miss Rylander's French classes presented a program for the High School in the gymnasium, conducted entirely in French. The classes sang French songs; there was a ballroom scene and gowns modeled a la mode by French 11 boys.

Memorial Day exercises were held at the High School for grades 6 to 12. The guest speaker was William W. Noyes, chairman of the board of Selectmen, and past commander of Post 66, American Legion. A special feature was entitled, "Song of the Wars." Phyllis Ensher read selections and Kenneth Manzer played the songs as piano solos.

The Howard High School Recreation Center has surely earned a prominent place in the interests of the Youth of W. Bridgewater. The recorded attendance has been increasing steadily. In fact, on May 25th, the gang turned out in such full blast that the attendance doubled--grand total of 150 high schoolers, 8th graders, adults and servicemen. The Canoe Club was just rocking with action. The santilling rhytms of the Manzer Orchestra echoed over the shuffle of dancing feet, the ping! pong! of the tournament, Beano! Spare! Home Run!

"Dearest Diary," that's only a Latin 11 pupil preparing his diary for the day. Miss R.....wants to be sure her pupils get the best background of Caesar.

To help further the sales of war stamps and bonds in our school an assembly program in the form of a radio skit, "Help Yourself," was presented. Miss Dwyer, stamp-chairman was in charge of arrangements for it.

The Student Council met recently and the item of interest was eating out-doors for the rest of the year. If you ever get one of those so-called leaves anytime, and see "the gang" out-doors, it's time to eat. The Student Council attended the last P.T.A. meeting to get an idea of real "parlimentary procedure" in conducting a meeting.

The Latin Class with Miss Rylander as chaperon, recently went as a group to the Bryant Hotel, where a fine meal was enjoyed. The table manners were American style--(for once the Romans were left behind)--the affair ended by taking in a movie.

Everyone is glad that the school year is nearing its end. There is only one run in the sheer nylons of ecstasy--exams. Moans of apprehension have greeted the announcements of the dates for the finals. Cramming has been the main activity of every soul for the past few days, and then the day comes. The average Joe enters the room with dragging steps, hoping every minute for the roof to cave in, or something to happen to delay the test indefinitely. Or maybe some Jane is optimistically getting a last look at the too-often neglected text book. But don't worry. Your nonchalant air, no matter how excellent, doesn't annoy the teacher one bit. He (or she) knows when you're concerned, and cornered. Take it from me, you're caught! The questions are certain to be on the chapter you didn't have time enough to read (last March.) It does no good to protest. No, the end has come. Your I. Q. is now going to be made public. You and I hang our heads in shame and kiss our extra money and freedom good-bye.

The annual spring dance of the Junior Class was held in the Canoe Club late in May. The hall was appropriately decorated and a five piece orchestra from Taunton provided dance music. (It was apparent that the war has effected the dye industry for the dance floor was a beautiful "Symphony in Pink and Blue.") All pronounced the evening a tremendous success.

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West Bridgewater's response to the United National Clothing Collection for homeless people of Europe was generous. The Town contributed a little more than two and one-half tons of good, substantial clothing with less than a bushel basket classified as rags. Average contributions all over the country have been figured at one pound per person and W. Bridgewater exceede this average considerably.

Howard Seminary closed its doors on another school year with appropriate graduation exercises held in the Unitarian Church. The W. B. wolves will have to go elsewhere now that 55 studious students have returned home.

In observance of Memorial Day, appropriate exercises were held at the town's cemeteries and monuments, regardless of shortages. We were able to secure a 10 piece band, part of the Brockton Legion band. Rev. Edward McClurg of the Methodist Church was the speaker at Pleasant Hill. Charles Taylor gave the address at Pine Hill. Chaplain Ernest Marble U.S.N. gave prayers at Pine Hill and War Memorial Park and Rev. Thomas Devlin at the G.A.R. Monument. The Senior Service Scouts held Sailor's Memorial Park and Rev. Leon Fay, Unitarian Church, was the speaker of the day. Boy and Girl Scouts, Cubs and Brownies and school children joined with the Legion in the parade and they were served the usual ice cream at the town hall. A little unforeseen excitement was provided, however, by two run-a-way horses, belonging to "Ed" Gibson, which were startled by the parade. "Gibby" quickly subdued his horses, and the program continued as scheduled.

The Welcome Home Committee's most recent activity was an old-fashioned auction held at the Town Hall. Donation of articles for action were solicited from townspeople and were auctioned off by Richard Keith, Adolphus Eldridge and World War 11 Vet, Arthur Read of your committee. Approximately $125.00 was raised and added to the Welcome Home Fund. The committee plans another field day this summer to raise additional funds.

A service flag with 24 stars was presented to the Baptist Church June 6th by the ladies of the church. A speaker from Fall River made the presentation.

"S E R V I C E M E N ' S N O T E S"

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Pvt. Ralph J. Miles has notified his parents that he has arrived somewhere in the Philippine Islands.

Pfc. George Sousa has beenofficially liberated from a German Prison Camp. He has also seen Sgt. Rufus Hayes of Bridgewater.

Chaplain Ernest L. Marble, U.S. Navy, is now home on a 30 day leave after having served in the South Pacific for several months. He will return to Long Island to be stationed there.

Howard High corridors have been enlivened recently by visiting servicemen, both in Navy blue and Khaki. Among the visitors have been S 2/c Robert Morse, F 1/c William Allen, Pvt. Irving Steffen and Pvt. Ashton Sears. Three other young men have been sworn in to the ASTRP. They will leave the 9th of July. They are Jimmy Asack, Alan Read, and Dick Goldio.

Pfc. David B. Anderson who was wounded by shrapnel while fighting with the 5th Marine Div. on Iwo Jima paid a surprise visit recently to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eskil Anderson of Cochesett. He is back for treatments at the Chelsea Naval Hospital. He served nine months overseas.

T/Sgt. Ernest Rizel, engineer and the Turret Gunner on a B-17 flying fortress, has just been given an honorable discharge under the new point system. He has been awarded the Air Medal and five Oak Leaf Clusters, a Presidential Citation, and a good conduct medal, having served on thirty five missions on his bomber over Germany, Austria, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

GM 3/c Richard Rizel is now stationed aboard a PT boat somewhere in the South Pacific.

Joe Green of the Marines, somewhere in the Pacific, would like to hear from you all and mentions "Hick"Ohlson in particular. How about it?

Lester Johnson, recently was home on leave from Sampson, New York, after completing his boot-training.

Kenneth Harlow, is now stationed in Germany. A brother Elmer Harlow, Jr., wrote that he is to get a leave in the near future. W. B., here I come!

Cpl. Harrison A. Brown, Jr., is serving in the Pacific with the 873rd Engineer Aviation Battalion. Recently he received a letter of commendation from Hdq. First Cavalry Division. Cpl. Brown entered the service in December, 1942 and has been overseas for 23 continuous months.

Pvt. Elmer E. Bryant has won the right to wear the "boots and wings" of the U. S. Army Paratroops. He has just completed four weeks of training at Ft. Benning, Ga., during which time he made five jumps.

We were very glad to hear from you, Howard Farnum, MM 2/c, and surely hope to see you soon.

Pfc. Ralph A. Hunter, we were thrilled with the Japanese money. Thank you. We sure hope you meet someone from home soon.

Pvt. John Verity did you get out letter with the addresses which you requested? Thanks for the name suggested; we haven't had enough answers yet to send you the list.

Harold Soule, AM 2/c we were certainly glad to hear from you and hope that HHS Class 1929 soe this note and get in touch with you in the Pacific area on the Polk.

Lt. Ed Brown writes from Assam; good going Ed.

Pfc. Henry Andrews has given his news from the Central Pacific.

Donald Clark is home on furlough.

Ronald Manzer, class of '44½ has been inducted into the army and is now stationed at Camp Devens awaiting future assignment.

Sgt. Howard Alger, liberated as a prisoner of wars in Germany, is now home after a stay in a rest camp in France.

The townspeople were profoundly shocked this week by the sudden death of our tree warden Christopher Read in his 76th year.

THE FOUR R'S --- There probably isn't a soldier in the army who hasn't heard about the big rehabilitation program Uncle Sam is getting underway for his special benefit. There'll be plenty of bands on hand to welsome the big troops ships as they dock no doubt, but the doughboy will get the surprise of his life when he finds also that the piers are lined five deep with Rehabilitation, Readjustment, Reassurance, and Reconversion committees, all determined to assist the veteran in rediscovering his civilian self.

Lots of you think that all you have to do is rush home, envelope Mom in a bear hug, grab one of her swell cookies, throw your uniform into the old cedar chest along with Pop's from World War 1, and settle down into the old routine. Of course, them as have wives waiting figure however, are just the thoughts and dreams of them as don't know--and the sooner they are given the go-by, the more painless it will be for all concerned because, the fact of the matter is that, when you get home, you're going to be readjusted to civilian life before you do anything else so you might as well get reconciled to the idea--resistance will be futile.

Ever since Pearl Harbor the nation's leading educators and psychologists have been studying the problem. After examining a group of 21-year-olds who had been in the army three years, they've reached some very interesting conclusions; the men had not only changed a lot but worse still, they had all aged three years, and some who had never before imbibed anything stronger than milk, had learned to drink coffee--and you know what that does to your nerves.

Of course, the Psychoes got right on the job, appointed committees right and left to cope with the problems, and distributed tons of pamphlets on what and what not to say to the returning vet.

If you try to tell Mom and the girls about something you saw "over there," don't think it's lack of interest when they freeze up and try to change the subject--it's the pamphlets they've been reading. They have been thoroughly briefed against discussing your war experiences. If this happens to you, don't get sore, just think of some kid you know who really DOESN'T want to tell about "things" and be glad that he probably is getting the same "hush-hush" treatment and HE WILL appreciate it. You are one of the lucky ones, and thank God they are in the majority, so if the attempts to help only irk you to distraction, remember they may actually strike right at the heart of some other fellow's problem. Remember too, these committees have worked hard and their one aim is and has been TO HELP YOU. Give them a break and listen co-operatively--you may even pick up an idea here and there that you can really use. You know there is one swell thing about advice--you can take all you get and do as you darn please afterward.

There are many who know just what they want to do when they get back into civies, but some fellows have found that what they thought they wanted to do "before" had fallen rather flat when measured against the new ideas they have picked up while traveling around with the Uncle and then of course there are the kids who hadn't made up their minds what they wanted to do and still can't decide. If you belong to the first group, swell,---yell for what you want and go get it, but remember the other, and take your "Rehabilitatin'" in the spirit it is given.

If some of the programs on the FOUR R'S strike you as being nuts--O.K. Maybe some of them are, for after all, nothing human is perfect, but from this side of the war, they look like a long stride in the right direction. Better still, they encompass the true desire of every civilian's heart--that is to HELP YOU, and nothing that comes from the heart can be entirely a wasted effort, can it?????

So long for this time--we'll be rehabilitatin' you--BUT SOON!!! (We hope!)

Yours news Committee